

THE ONE THING NEEDED.

BY THE REV. THOMAS MURPHY, D.D.

The one thing needed to give tone and success to our Sabbath Schools is to make the immediate conversion of the scholars their great object.

The immediate conversion of the scholars is the aim to be before the mind of the Superintendent every time he enters the school.

Such a purpose must necessarily affect the teachers. It will keep ever before them the one great thing at which they are to aim.

Settle this one object of the school, and it will cut short the whole question as to who should be teachers.

The scholars, too, will feel the influence of this great aim wherever it pervades any school.

This, moreover, will attract scholars to the school and keep them there.

Then it is a practicable thing to seek for the immediate salvation of the young.

A few weeks ago a Teacher's meeting of this city had assembled. It had been determined to lay aside all other business and spend the hour in devotional exercises.

And now, while they are young, is the most hopeful time to look for the conversion of the scholars.

Oh, superintendents, teachers, what a call is this for you to be earnest! What awful interests are at stake!

PILGRIM STANDFAST.

A staunch old pilgrim he was as ever set out for the celestial city. No persecutions nor any allurements of pleasure could turn him aside from the right way.

The same Steadfast blood beat strong in the heart of the martyr Hooper, when he went with a firm step to the fatal stake.

Perhaps it is quite as hard for Standfast to preserve his integrity amid the temptations and pleasures of the world as in the fires of persecution.

A poor woman in India, who had embraced Christianity, was offered back the jewels and money which had been taken from her.

And still another, Mr. Judson tells us of, one who was very fond of her jewelry, yet desired to follow Christ.

Can we all, when the world holds out its glittering baits to us, lay them aside with the same steadfast spirit, and say with her, "I love Christ more than these?"

FAITHFUL IN THAT WHICH IS LEAST.

To individual faithfulness God has committed the history of mankind. This speaks true to the faithfulness of individual souls.

So many are afraid of this obedience—afraid to do the little thing prompted—afraid to speak the little word rising in the heart, all because it is a little thing in the eyes of men.

A ragged child falls and hurts herself, cries. Your impulse is to pick her up, wipe away her tears, and send her on her way rejoicing with the apple or bit of candy in your pocket.

A tract is a little thing. Its effect to lead to the truth you believe in. You are urged to distribute them, and yet you satisfy your conscience by leaving them on car seats for chance readers, or throw them from a window in the hope it may be found and read.

It is so much the little things which make our lives, the little acts which form our influence, the smiles the tears which prove our hearts, and win the hearts of others to ourselves and our God.

Mistrust the man who finds everything good, the man who finds everything evil, and still more the man who is indifferent to everything.

It is better for a man to be an advanced oyster than a degraded god, for in the former case the path is upward, in the latter it is downward.

Death to a good man is but passing through a dark entry out of the little dusky room of his Father's house into another that is fair and large, lighted and adorned, and divinely entertaining.

HELP AT THE RIGHT TIME—A TALK ABOUT PROVIDENCE.

"I wish to know whether there are in these days any providential interventions or not," said a young man of inquiring, yet doubtful, mind to his pastor.

"What evidence would you desire?" responded the pastor.

"That of facts,"

"You know the Bible furnishes many such facts."

"True, but those belong to another age, and chiefly to a peculiar people. Are there current facts which establish the doctrine of a present special providence?"

"Many,"

"I beg you to give two or three of them."

"I will do so cheerfully. In the city of Buffalo, during one of the severest winters of the last fifteen years, a widowed mother, enticed by disease, with a child of two summers, one night lay shivering in an upper room of a dilapidated tenement building.

"But may it not have happened so?"

"So might 'I have happened that the hungry lions would not harm the prophet of God, when cast into their den; but we know that the intervention was real and divine. So in the case which I have mentioned, the providence was real; the witnesses are still living, and their testimony is undoubted."

"Will you mention another case?"

"Only yesterday, I read this incident in the letter of a pious German: 'In the first year of my marriage,' he writes, 'I had one day not a farthing in the house, when my wife came and asked me for a thaler to pay the weaver who was to bring her cloth home in the evening. The weaver was poor! There was not a person in the village of whom we could borrow the money, and my wife, unaccustomed to such embarrassments, burst into tears. I tried to comfort her by telling her that our heavenly Father knew what we needed, and that, perhaps, the bad weather might prevent the weaver from coming that day. I commended the matter to the Lord, for I saw no means of human help.

"So the falling out of the money was quite natural?"

"It was so, indeed; but that it should remain in the book so long a time, and then fall out at just the moment when needed to relieve the distress of the poor weaver, as well as that of the poor German and his wife, was a providential incident, the remembrance of which still cheers the heart of the recipients."

"O, I remember now the piece of tax-money found by command of our Saviour in the fish's mouth."

"Exactly; but here is another instance: A friend of mine, in a town not a thousand miles from Brooklyn, who had long been an official member of the church and a generous contributor in all the collections for its support, was suddenly impoverished by a sad business calamity!

"I will give anything for the support of the church," said he one day to his pastor, "and I must, therefore, stay away; you must accept my resignation as your leader." His pastor expostulated with him, but in vain.

"Give a little," said the pastor, "to every collection; it will not harm you; no one is there for giving for Gospel purposes."

He passed and my friend's seat in the church continued vacant, and his financial troubles at home increased rather than diminished. One day, the faithful, right-minded pastor, while raising a subscription for the purchase of a parsonage, went to him and requested a pledge for a small amount. The appeal overwhelmed him with a fresh grief; the struggle in his sensitive soul between his desire to be a man in giving and his apparent inability was fearful.

The opinion of certain hostile circles in Paris was all the time creating in secret a figure carefully compounded of Vitellius, Mephistopheles, and Lazzarone. No such person has either existed or could have existed for the circumstances. A few frank and faithful personal sketches will give to posterity the true Louis Napoleon, and enable them to understand, as not many of us can pretend to do, his rise and fall.

Professor Jenkin, of Edinburgh University, on recently assuming the duties of the Chair of Engineering, founded by the late Sir David Baxter, made an admirable address to his class on the above subject, from which we take the following:

The originality which suggests novel conceptions, the common sense which judges the soundness of an undertaking—the experience which specifies the quality of material required, and the manner in which old well-known details are to be carried out—the business habits and sagacity which guide men in the superintendence of work and workmen—the clear head which understands obligations imposed by a contract, and which can write a document having a definite meaning—still more the gloriolous faculty of invention, by which a man creates, as it were, a new thing, and gives away power into the hands of his fellows—these qualities or faculties are all useful to the engineer in the highest degree, and neither I nor my colleagues can give them. They are self-made, unscientific engineers possess them, and in virtue of them become what they were and are. Unscientific untaught men, who have these qualities, will still become engineers in spite of scientific rivals. All this I willingly concede, yet I claim that scientific teaching will help most those men who would do most without it, and that it will render useful even an inferior class of men, who without it would be hopeless and useless. Originality is not despised but guided by science; common sense suffers no wrong at the hand of knowledge; experience is not weakened by the power of calculation; education does not deprive men from a knowledge of the world; the clearest head is strengthened by scholastic training and the inventor is guarded from countless disappointments by obtaining the power of calculating results without, in every case, testing his suggestions by actual and costly experiment. In a word, scientific knowledge makes the great man greater, adding to his powers, and it guards the weaker brethren from many follies.

A correspondent of the Boston Advertiser tells us how it is that people of small incomes live as well as they do in Germany.

One part of it is this, that frugality has been wonderfully systematized here. Every body helps every other to make small means go far. A German town is, so to speak, in a perpetual, unconscious conspiracy to keep prices at a low average and to reduce the labor and the expense of housekeeping. One kitchen fire, with perhaps a little coal, serves for thirty or forty families; one housemaid for half a dozen; bread is made in private houses; cooked meats, cold, are offered for sale all over the town. The scale of profits is very low and the same whether one buys an ounce of bread or a hundred pounds.

Here is a widow lady, with a bright little son, who goes to school. Her means are very small. She hires a flat of six rooms and a kitchen on the fourth floor, in a well built handsome house, situated upon a fine street, and lets three rooms to lodgers. A servant comes in for an hour or two a day to do the chamber work, run errands, mop the floors on Saturday, etc. In the morning she makes a cup of coffee over a spirit lamp, and with bread from the baker—good, hot, fresh bread—has a light breakfast, after the German fashion.

At noon she produces a dinner ready cooked and hot from an establishment in the same building, which makes a business of supplying families in that way. At this place just one dinner, but large enough to be divided among many families, is prepared each day, and the same fare, but something different the next day, and so on. In this way the business is simplified to the utmost; the least amount of labor is required; there is no want of food, prepared for all suppers, and left uncalled for. At supper, out of the bread may supply herself with beer and butter, a slice or two of cold meat, a bit of the like at a very lightsome expense. Good beer may be had almost for nothing in a large glass of lager, much larger than those we use, for a cent and a half. So she lives respectably, in clean, well kept rooms; has no fire in the kitchen, and she enjoys much leisure each day, and she does not but a bit of money. Now, in our beloved Boston, she would have to work more to do, though employing a servant constantly; and besides, her means would not pay the servant's wages. It might be observed, too, that she is not obliged to wear an obscure, disagreeable part of the town, but lives in a handsome street, clean, bright, and airy, among the healthiest and most desirable in the whole city.

MOTHERLY.

What a dear old Saxon epithet is the word "motherly"! Motherly kindness, affection, nurture! The word is never uttered when fairly applied. Motherly indifference—who has not felt it? Motherly love—who has not joyed in it? Motherly selfishness—who has not resented it? Motherly self-sacrifice—who has not admired it? Motherly forethought—who has not benefited by it? Motherly sympathy—who has not sympathized with it? Motherly prayer—who has not prayed with it? Motherly tears—who has not wept with it? Motherly forgiveness—who has not forgiven? Motherly consolation—who has not been comforted? Motherly rebuke—who has not been corrected? Motherly example—who has not imitated? Motherly influence—who has not been influenced? Motherly love—who has not loved? Motherly sacrifice—who has not sacrificed? Motherly patience—who has not been patient? Motherly perseverance—who has not persevered? Motherly faith—who has not believed? Motherly hope—who has not hoped? Motherly charity—who has not charitably? Motherly mercy—who has not been merciful? Motherly grace—who has not been gracious? Motherly blessing—who has not been blessed? Motherly curse—who has not been cursed? Motherly death—who has not died? Motherly resurrection—who has not risen? Motherly life—who has not lived? Motherly glory—who has not gloried? Motherly kingdom—who has not reigned? Motherly rule—who has not ruled? Motherly dominion—who has not dominated? Motherly power—who has not been powerful? Motherly wisdom—who has not been wise? Motherly knowledge—who has not been knowledgeable? Motherly understanding—who has not been understanding? Motherly insight—who has not been insightful? Motherly discernment—who has not been discerning? Motherly judgment—who has not been judicious? Motherly discretion—who has not been discreet? Motherly moderation—who has not been moderate? Motherly temperance—who has not been temperate? Motherly self-control—who has not been self-controlled? Motherly self-reliance—who has not been self-reliant? Motherly self-dependence—who has not been self-dependent? Motherly self-sufficiency—who has not been self-sufficient? Motherly self-satisfaction—who has not been self-satisfied? Motherly self-approval—who has not been self-approved? Motherly self-commendation—who has not been self-commended? Motherly self-praise—who has not been self-praised? Motherly self-glory—who has not been self-gloried? Motherly self-exaltation—who has not been self-exalted? Motherly self-elevation—who has not been self-elevated? Motherly self-ennoblement—who has not been self-ennobled? Motherly self-honouring—who has not been self-honored? Motherly self-respecting—who has not been self-respected? Motherly self-valuing—who has not been self-valued? Motherly self-esteeming—who has not been self-esteemed? Motherly self-cherishing—who has not been self-cherished? Motherly self-protecting—who has not been self-protected? Motherly self-defending—who has not been self-defended? Motherly self-asserting—who has not been self-asserted? Motherly self-maintaining—who has not been self-maintained? Motherly self-perpetuating—who has not been self-perpetuated? Motherly self-sustaining—who has not been self-sustained? Motherly self-supporting—who has not been self-supported? Motherly self-aiding—who has not been self-aided? Motherly self-advancing—who has not been self-advanced? Motherly self-improving—who has not been self-improved? Motherly self-perfecting—who has not been self-perfected? Motherly self-completing—who has not been self-completed? Motherly self-fulfilling—who has not been self-fulfilled? Motherly self-actualizing—who has not been self-actualized? Motherly self-achieving—who has not been self-achieved? Motherly self-fulfilling—who has not been self-fulfilled? Motherly self-actualizing—who has not been self-actualized? Motherly self-achieving—who has not been self-achieved?

HISTORICAL PORTRAITS.

Great men cannot be known through their history. The great man thus, however, bears the same relation at best to the reality, as the sculptor's Apollo or Achilles bears to the model, whom he always keeps in view as a guide and outline, while supplying actual deficiencies and exaggerating all his grand features. Anybody who would understand the reality must always check the history by the lighter personal memoir.

GERMAN FRUGALITY.

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THE VALUE OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY.

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